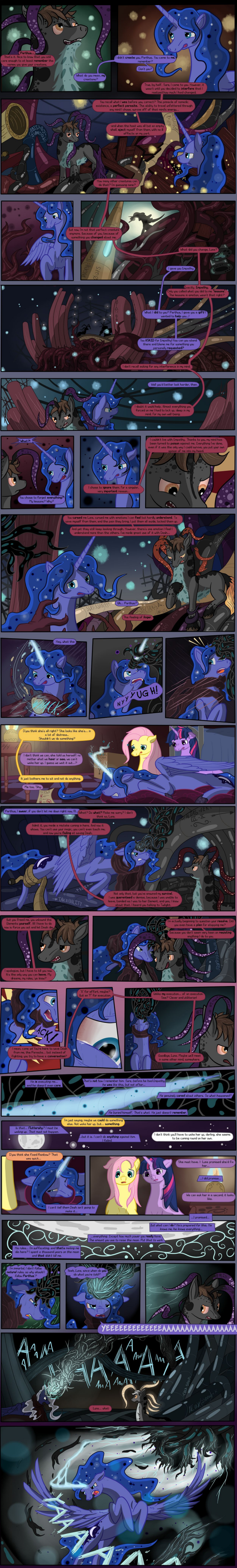
Rocket to Insanity

ISSUE # 89 EIGHTY NINE

Inspired by DARKJESTER'S original fanfiction

Adapted and illustrated entirely by SEVENTOZEN



Parthus...
That's it. Nice to know that you still care enough to at least remember the names you give your creations.
What do you mean, my creations?
I didn't create you, Parthus. You came to me, remember?
Don't you?
True, by half. Sure, I came to you. However, it wasn't until you decided to interfere that I realized how much I had changed.
You recall what I was before you, correct? The pinnacle of nomadic existence, a perfect parasite. The ability to travel unfettered through any mind I chose, survive off of that mind's energy...
-and when the host was all but an empty shell, eject myself from them, with no ill effects on my part.
How many other creatures can do that? I'm guessing none?
But now, I'm not that perfect creature anymore. Because of you, because of something you changed about me.
What did you change, Luna?
I gave you Empathy.
Exactly. Empathy. Only you called what you did to me 'lessons'. The lessons in emotion, wasn't that right?
What I did to you? Parthus, I gave you a gift! I wanted to help you...!
You ASKED for Empathy! How can you stand there and blame me for something you personally requested?
I don't recall asking for any interference in my mind.
Well you'd better look harder, then.
I doubt it would help. Almost everything you forced on me I had to lock up, deep in my mind. For my own well-being.
What?!
You chose to forget everything? My lessons? Why?
I chose to ignore them. For a singular, very important reason...
I couldn't live with Empathy. Thanks to you, my mind has been turned to poison against me. Everything I've done, even if it was the only way I could survive, you put your own opinion of me into my head.
You cursed me Luna, cursed me with emotions I can feel but hardly understand. To save myself from them, and the pain they bring, I put them all aside, locked them up.
And yet they still keep leaking through. However, there's one emotion I feel I understand more than the others. I've made great use of it with Dash...
Uh... Parthus?
The feeling of Anger.
Hey, what the-
WHACK!
NYYYUGH!
D'you think she's all right? She looks like she's... in a lot of distress.. Shouldn't we do something?
I don't think we can, she told us herself; no matter what we hear or see, we can't wake her up. I guess we wait it out...?
It just bothers me to sit and not do anything.
Me too, 'Shy.
Parthus, I swear, if you don't let me down right now, I'll...
What? Do what? Make me sorry? I don't think so, Luna.
Admit it, you made a mistake coming in here. And now it shows. You can't use your magic, you can't even touch me, and now you're failing at saving Dash.
Not only that, but you've ensured my survival. I was guaranteed a demise, because I was unable to leave, bonded as I was to her Element, and yes, I know about that. I heard you talking to Twilight.
But you freed me, you unbound the Elements yourself. All I have to do now is force you out and let Dash die.
I apologize, but I have to kill you now. It's the only way you can leave. My dreams, my rules, 'ya know?
I'm actually beginning to question your resolve. Did you even have a plan for stopping me?
Because you don't seem very keen on resisting anything I do to you.
ACK!
I mean, come on! You're here to save Dash from me, the Parasite... but instead of fighting, you try to have a conversation?
"A" for effort, maybe? But an "F" for execution.
Unlike my execution... of an execution. See? Clever and utilitarian!
Goodbye, Luna. Maybe we'll meet in some other mind, somewhere.
He is executing me... and he doesn't even care.
That's not how I remember him. Sure, before he had Empathy, he was like this, but not after...
He genuinely cared about others. So what happened?
He buried himself. That's what. He just doesn't remember.
Is that... Fluttershy? I must be waking up. That must not happen.
I'm just saying, maybe we could do something else. Not wake her up, but... something.
...but it is. I can't do anything against him. I failed.
I don't think you'll have to wake her up, darling, she seems to be coming round on her own.
D'you think she fixed Rainbow? That was quick...
I can't tell them Dash isn't going to make it...
She must have. I- Luna promised she'd fix her...
...I did promise...
We can ask her in a second, it looks like.
...I promised...
But what can I do? He's prepared for this. He knows me, he knows everything...
...everything. Except how much power you really have. The amount you use to raise the moon. Put that to work.
His rules... I'm suffocating, and that's making me die here? I spent a thousand years on the moon and that didn't kill me.
I'm immortal, I don't follow natural rules, so why should I follow Parthus'?
Yeah, Luna, since when do you do what you're told?
YEEEEEEEEEEEEEAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAA
Luna... what-

ROCKET TO INSANITY

ISSUE# 90 NINETY

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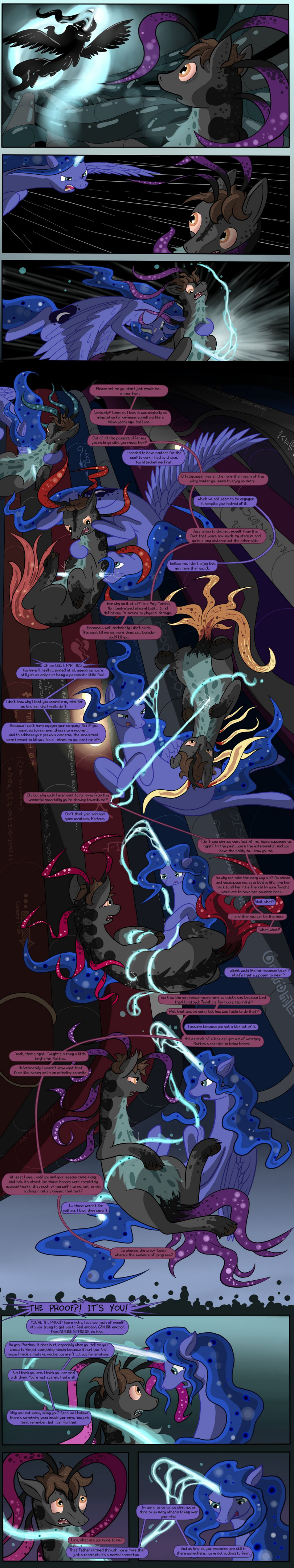
Please tell me you didn't just impale me... -on your horn.
Seriously? Come on, I know it was originally an adaptation for defense, something like a million years ago, but Luna...
Out of all the possible offenses you could go with, you chose this?
I needed to have contact for the spell to work. I had no choice. You attacked me first.
Only because I was a little more-than-weary of the witty banter you seem to enjoy so much.
...Which we still seem to be engaged in, despite your hatred of it.
Just trying to distract myself from the fact that you're now inside my sternum, and quite a long distance out the other side.
Believe me, I don't enjoy this any more than you do.
Then why do it at all? I'm a Poly-Morphic, Non-Centralized Integral Entity. By all definitions, I'm immune to physical damage.
Because... well, technically I don't exist. This won't kill me any more than, say, boredom would kill you.
HOW CAN YOU SAY IT DOESN'T MATTER?
-EXIT DIRECTION-
Oh be QUIET, PARTHUS!
You haven't really changed at all, seeing as you're still just as adept at being a pessimistic little foal.
I don't know why I kept you around in my mind for as long as I did, I really don't.
Because I can't have enjoyed your company. Not if you insist on turning everything into a mockery.
And to address your previous concerns, the impalement wasn't meant to kill you. It's a Tether, so you can't run off.
Oh, but why would I ever want to run away from this wonderful hospitality you're showing towards me?
Don't think your sarcasm goes unnoticed, Parthus.
THE OTHER LITTLE PONIES
<I fear she's onto me>
I don't see why you don't just kill me. You're supposed to, right? I'm the pest, you're the exterminator. And you have the ability to, I know you do.
So why not take the easy way out? Go ahead and decompose me, save Dash's life, give her back to all her little friends; I'm sure Twilight would love to have her squeeze back...
Wait, what?
...and then you can be the hero-
What, what?
"Twilight would like her squeeze back"? What's that supposed to mean?
You know the only reason you're here so quickly was because Dash tried to attack Twilight a few hours ago, right?
Well, that was my doing, but how was I able to do that?
I assume because you got a kick out of it.
Not as much of a kick as I got out of watching Rainbow's reaction to being kissed.
Yeah, that's right. Twilight's burning a little bright for Rainbow.
Unfortunately, I wouldn't know what that feels like, seeing as I'm an unfeeling parasite.
HOW ABOUT THAT?
At least I was... until you and your lessons came along. And look, it's almost like those lessons were completely useless! Pouring that much of yourself into me, only to get nothing in return, doesn't that hurt?
I... those weren't for nothing. I know they weren't.
So where's the proof, Luna? Where's the evidence of progress?
THE PROOF?! IT'S YOU!
YOU'RE THE PROOF! You're right, I put too much of myself into you, trying to get you to feel emotion, GENUINE emotion. From GENUINE STIMULUS, no less.
So yes, Parthus. It does hurt, especially when you tell me you chose to forget everything, simply because it hurt you. And maybe I made a mistake, maybe you aren't cut out for emotions.
But I think you are. I think you can deal with them. You're just scared, that's all.
Why am I not simply killing you? Because I believe there's something good inside your mind. You just don't remember. But I can fix that.
Luna, what are you doing to me?
That Tether rammed through you is more than just a restraint; it's a mental connection.
I'm going to do to you what you've done to so many others: taking over your mind.
And as long as your memories are still in there somewhere, you've got nothing to fear.

POCKET TO INSANITY

ISSUE # 91 NINETY ONE

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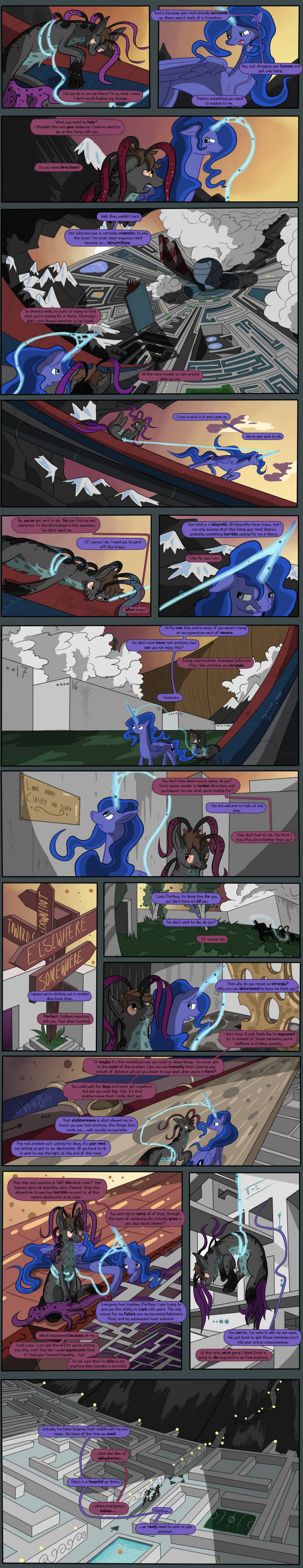
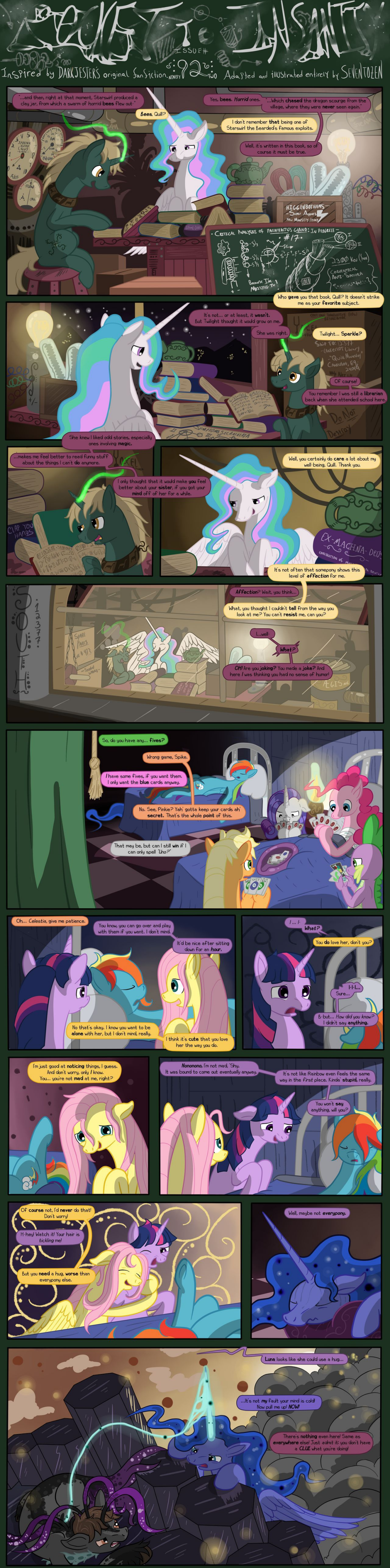

Did you do it, are we there? In my mind, I mean. I don't recall feeling any change...
That's because your mind already **surrounds** us, there wasn't much of a transition.
Now, quit dragging your **hooves** and get over here.
There's something you need to explain to me.
What, you need my **help**? I thought this was **your** endeavor; I had no need to go on this foray with you.
Do you need **directions**?
Well, they wouldn't hurt.
Your subconscious is certainly **enigmatic**, to say the least. I've never seen anypony's mind become so... **labryrinthine.**
So there's really no point to trying to find what you're looking for in there. Obviously I didn't want those memories to be found.
All the more reason to turn around while we can.
Cram a sock in it and come on.
We've got work to do.
No, ***you've*** got work to do. ***You*** can find my lost memories. I'm the third wheel in this equation. You don't need me.
Of course I do. I need you to ward off the traps.
PG/F :AQUEOUS
What traps?
Your mind is a **labyrinth**. All labyrinths have traps. And I can only assume that this being your mind, there's probably something **horrible** waiting for me in there.
Only for you, Luna.
I'd fly **over** this entire maze, if you weren't being an uncooperative sack of **manure.**
You don't even **have** real emotions, how **can** you not enjoy this?
Acting, improvisation, analogous behaviour. Plus, I like watching you **struggle.**
17
16
15
14
Fantastic.
OUTLET
Look more Closely for stuff
You don't know where you're going, do you? You're gonna wander in **random** directions until you happen across what you're looking for?
You are welcome to help at any time.
Hey, don't look at me. You think ***I*** know this place better than you?
TOWARDS
DOWN/OUT
ELSEWHERE
SOMEWHERE
I guess we're striking out in random directions then.
Perfect. Endless monotony with you. Just what I wanted.
Look, Parthus. I'm doing this ***for*** you, so I don't have to ***kill*** you.
You don't want to die, do you?
Of course not.
Then why do you resist so **strongly?** Why are you **determined** to have me hate you?
I don't know. It just feels like I'm **supposed** to. A remnant of those memories you're hellbent on finding, possibly.
Or **maybe** it's the roundabout way you insist on doing things. You never get to the **point** of the problem. Like now: you **honestly** think covering any amount of distance will put you closer to your goal, when you're in **here?**
You could walk for **days** and never get anywhere. And yet you would **try.** See, it's that stubbornness that I really don't get.
That **stubbornness** is what allowed me to teach you your lost emotions, the things that made you... well, socially acceptable.
The real problem isn't walking for days, it's **your mind** not letting us get to our destination. All you have to do is want to see the light at the end of the road.
Then the real question is "Will I ***like*** what I see?" Your lessons gave me empathy, sure. However they also allowed me to see how **horrible** my past is, all the mental destruction in my wake.
You want me to **relive** all of that, through the eyes of somepony who actually **gives** a wet slap about others?
Everypony has troubles, Parthus. I was trying to give you the ability to **cope** with yours. The only reason for my **failure** was my becoming Nightmare Moon, and my subsequent lunar isolation.
Which happened **because** of me...
Look, Luna. I can see the effort you're putting into this, and I feel like I would **appreciate** that, if I had your favored Empathy... but-
I'm not sure that I'm **able** to be anything else, besides a parasite.
√-1
You **can** be. I've seen it with my own eyes. We just have to get those memories back into your active consciousness.
At the rate **we're** going, I think Dash is going to **die** long before we find anything.
Actually, I've been keeping Dash stable with my own magic. We have all the time we **need.**
...Until she dies of **dehydration...**
She's in a **hospital** up there.
...where everypony's **asleep....**
Parthus...
...we ***really*** need to work on your optimism.


ISSUE# 92 NINETY TWO
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"...and then, right at that moment, Starswirl produced a clay jar, from which a swarm of horrid bees flew out-"
Bees, Quill?
Yes, bees. Horrid ones.
"...Which chased the dragon scourge from the village, where they were never seen again."
I don't remember that being one of Starswirl the Bearded's famous exploits.
Well, it's written in this book, so of course it must be true.
HIGGENBOTHAMS -Super Apples- New Mansely
CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF PARAFRACTUS GLAND: IN PROGRESS - #17
2300 Kev (flux)
CONVENTICAL ANTI-SPECTRA
Because I'm MISSING IT!
Who gave you that book, Quill? It doesn't strike me as your favorite subject.
It's not... or at least, it wasn't. But Twilight thought it would grow on me.
She was right.
Twilight... Sparkle?
Of course!
You remember I was still a librarian back when she attended school here.
Ship To: 12377 -Canterlot Library- "Quill Manesley" Canterlot, EQ. 24049
Do Not Destroy
SYMPTOMS SECRATREATA
She knew I liked odd stories, especially ones involving magic.
...makes me feel better to read funny stuff about the things I can't do anymore.
I only thought that it would make you feel better about your sister, if you got your mind off of her for a while.
CLAP YOU HANDS
Well, you certainly do care a lot about my well-being, Quill. Thank you.
EX-MACHNA-DEUS
It's not often that somepony shows this level of affection for me.
Affection? Wait, you think...
What, you thought I couldn't tell from the way you look at me? You can't resist me, can you?
I...well-
What?
OH! Are you joking? You made a joke? And here I was thinking you had no sense of humor!
SOUTH 12377
SPARE PARTS LOT # 473
ÆGIS
So, do you have any... fives?
Wrong game, Spike.
I have some fives, if you want them. I only want the blue cards anyway.
No. See, Pinkie? Yah' gotta keep your cards ah' secret. That's the whole point of this.
That may be, but can I still win if I can only spell "Uno?"
SKIP
Oh... Celestia, give me patience.
You know, you can go over and play with them if you want. I don't mind.
It'd be nice after sitting down for an hour.
No that's okay. I know you want to be alone with her, but I don't mind, really.
I think it's cute that you love her the way you do.
I... I-
What?
You do love her, don't you?
I-I-I... Sure...
B-but... How did you know? I didn't say anything.
I'm just good at noticing things, I guess. And don't worry, only I know. You... you're not mad at me, right?
Nononono, I'm not mad, 'Shy. It was bound to come out eventually anyway.
It's not like Rainbow even feels the same way in the first place. Kinda' stupid, really.
You won't say anything, will you?
Of course not, I'd never do that! Don't worry!
H-hey! Watch it! Your hair is tickling me!
But you need a hug, worse than everypony else.
Well, maybe not everypony.
Luna looks like she could use a hug...
...It's not my fault your mind is cold! Now pull me up! NOW!
There's nothing even here! Same as everywhere else! Just admit it: you don't have a CLUE what you're doing!

ROCKET TO INSANITY

ISSUE# 93 NINETY THREE

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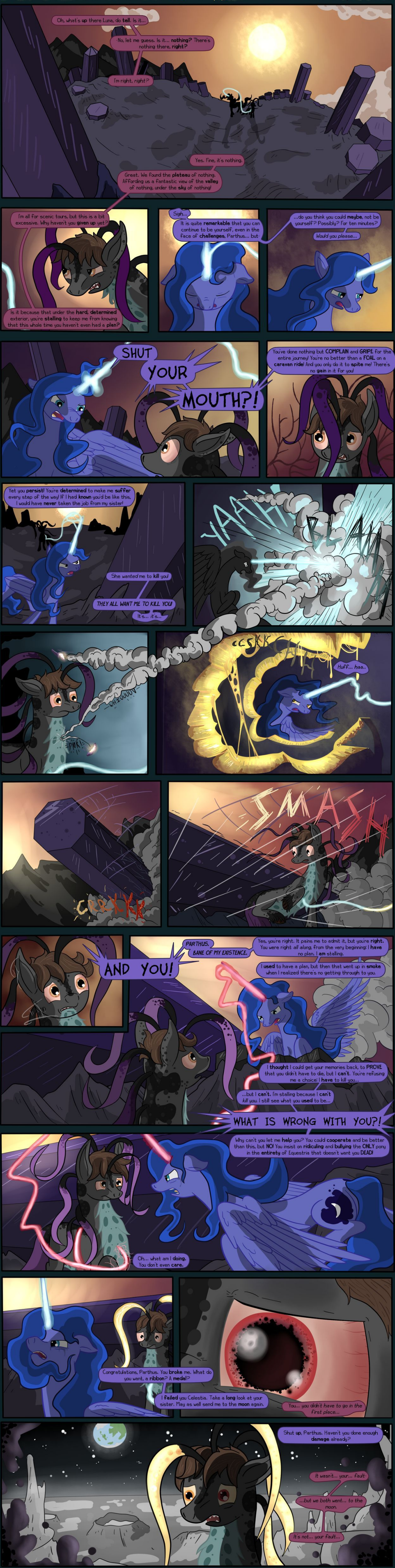
Oh, what's up there Luna, do tell. Is it...
-No, let me guess. Is it... nothing? There's nothing there, right?
I'm right, right?
Yes. Fine, it's nothing.
Great. We found the plateau of nothing. Affording us a fantastic view of the valley of nothing, under the sky of nothing!
I'm all for scenic tours, but this is a bit excessive. Why haven't you given up yet?
Is it because that under the hard, determined exterior, you're stalling to keep me from knowing that this whole time you haven't even had a plan?
Sigh...
It is quite remarkable that you can continue to be yourself, even in the face of challenges, Parthus... but-
...do you think you could maybe, not be yourself? Possibly? For ten minutes?
Would you please...
SHUT YOUR MOUTH?!
You've done nothing but COMPLAIN and GRIPE for the entire journey! You're no better than a FOAL on a caravan ride! And you only do it to spite me! There's no gain in it for you!
Yet you persist! You're determined to make me suffer every step of the way! If I had known you'd be like this, I would have never taken the job from my sister!
She wanted me to kill you!
THEY ALL WANT ME TO KILL YOU!
It's... it's...
YAAHH
BLAM
WHIUUUV
PIOK!
CCSKKCHH
Huff... haa..
CRRKKK
SMASH
AND YOU!
PARTHUS, BANE OF MY EXISTENCE.
Yes, you're right. It pains me to admit it, but you're right. You were right all along, from the very beginning: I have no plan. I am stalling.
I used to have a plan, but then that went up in smoke when I realized there's no getting through to you.
I thought I could get your memories back, to PROVE that you didn't have to die, but I can't. You're refusing me a choice: I have to kill you...
...but I can't. I'm stalling because I can't kill you. I still see what you used to be...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
Why can't you let me help you? You could cooperate and be better than this, but NO! You insist on ridiculing and bullying the ONLY pony in the entirety of Equestria that doesn't want you DEAD!
Oh... what am I doing. You don't even care.
Congratulations, Parthus. You broke me. What do you want, a ribbon? A medal?
I failed you Celestia. Take a long look at your sister. May as well send me to the moon again.
You... you didn't have to go in the first place...
Shut up, Parthus. Haven't you done enough damage already?
It wasn't... your... fault-
...but we both went... to the moon.
It's not... your fault...

ROCKET TO INSANITY

-ISSUE NUMBER-

:94: NINETY FOUR

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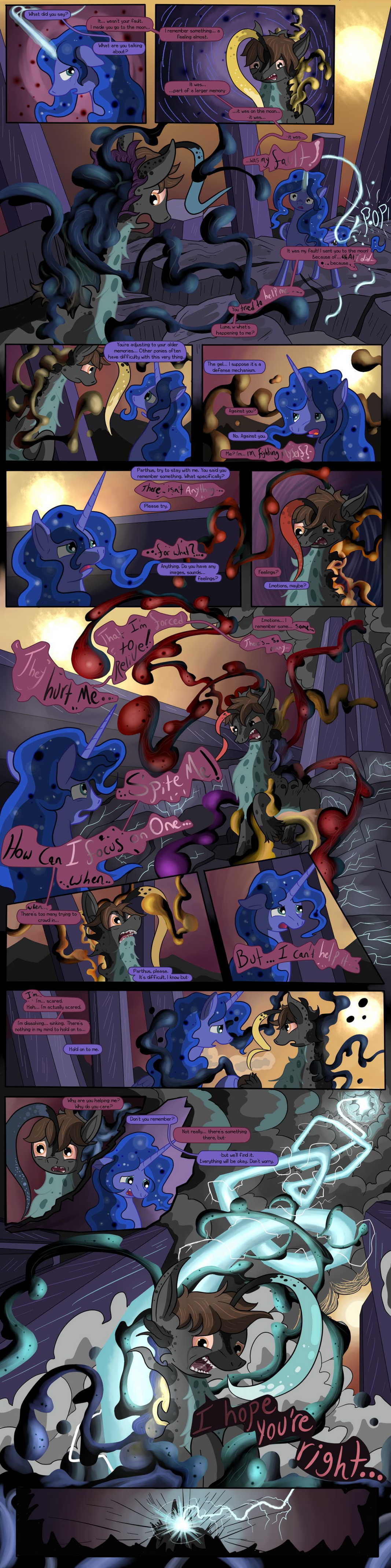
What did you say?
It... wasn't your fault. I made you go to the moon...
What are you talking about?
I remember something... a feeling almost.
It was... ...part of a larger memory-
...it was on the moon... -it was...
-it was...
...WAS my fault!
POP!
It was my fault! I sent you to the moon! Because of... WhAt I did... ...because...
You tried to help me...
Luna, w-what's happening to me?
You're adjusting to your older memories... Other ponies often have difficulty with this very thing..
The gel... I suppose it's a defense mechanism.
Against you?
No. Against you.
Me? I'm... I'M fighting Myself?-
Parthus, try to stay with me. You said you remember something. What specifically?
There... isn't Anything...
Please try.
...for what?...
Anything. Do you have any images, sounds... feelings?
Feelings?
Emotions, maybe?
Emotions... I remember some... Some...
There's... So many...
That I'm forced to Relive!
They hurt Me...
Spite Me!
How Can I focus on One... ...when..
when... There's too many trying to crowd in...
Parthus, please. It's difficult, I know but-
But... I can't help it...
I'm... I'm... scared. Heh... I'm actually scared.
I'm dissolving... sinking. There's nothing in my mind to hold on to...
Hold on to me.
Why are you helping me? Why do you care?
Don't you remember?
Not really... there's something there, but-
-but we'll find it. Everything will be okay. Don't worry.
I hope you're right...